

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-10 NSCE-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 INRE-00 DRC-01 CPR-02 /058 W

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O 192014Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1137

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 7645

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NI

SUBJECT: GOWON VISIT

FOR NEWSOM FROM CHARGE

REF: STATE 186187

1. AT EXPRESS DIRECTION MEA PERMSEC IYALLA, WHO HAD PRIOR COMMITMENT, DIRECTOR AMERICA DEPARTMENT OLISEMEKA RECEIVED CHARGE AT 1930 LOCAL SEPTEMBER 19.

2. AFTER CHARGE HAD INFORMED HIM CONTENTS REFTEL, OLISEMEKA SAID HE WAS NOT CERTAIN OF DETAILS GOWON SCHEDULE OCTOBER 5 BEYOND MORNING ADDRESS TO UNGA AND EVENING RECEPTION IN NYC. HE INDICATED HIS PERSONAL REACTION THAT IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE, IN VIEW AVAILABILITY SPECIAL AIR TRANSPORTATION NYC TO WHITE HOUSE AND RETURN, MAKE ARRANGEMENTS PERMIT GOWON VISIT PRESIDENT NIXON AT 3 P.M. AS PROPOSED.

3. CHARGE INDICATED WASHINGTON WOULD NATURALLY LIKE TO HEAR AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY WHETHER HEAD OF STATE WILL BE ABLE MEET WITH PRESIDENT AT SUGGESTED TIME. OLISEMEKA PROMISED TRY OBTAIN RESPONSE SEPTEMBER 20 OR AT LEAST "BEFORE WEEKEND."

4. OLISEMEKA ASKED WHETHER THERE WERE PARTICULAR SUBJECTS
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PRESIDENT WOULD WANT TO DISCUSS WITH GOWON. CHARGE RE-

SPONDED HE UNDERSTOOD GOWON WAS VISITING US IN CAPACITY AS OAU CHAIRMAN AND ASSUMED THAT HE WOULD WANT ADDRESS SUBJECTS OF GENERAL OAU CONCERN. OLISEMEKA ACKNOWLEDGED THAT WAS UNDOUBTEDLY TRUE, BUT SAID IT MIGH PROVE USEFUL OPPORTUNITY FOR TWO HEADS OF STATE TO DISCUSS MATTER OF BILATERAL INTEREST AS WELL. CHARGE NOTED SEEMING ABSENCE OF BILATERAL ISSUES WARRANTING DISCUSSION AT HEAD OF STATE LEVEL, BUT SAID HE WOULD GIVE MATTER ADDITIONAL THOUGHT AND WOULD APPRECIATE OLISEMEKA DOING SAME WITH VIEW TO FURTHER EXCHANGE AT NEXT CONTACT.

5. COMMENT: FACT OLISEMEKA WAS VERY RELAXED AND FELT IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE WORK OUT MEETING OCTOBER 5 OF COURSE REFLECTS ONLY HIS IMMEDIATE PERSONAL REACTION AND DOES NOT CONSTITUTE FORMAL FMG RESPONSE TO PROPOSAL REFTEL. SIMILARLY, WHILE HE INDICATED EVERY INTENTION OF OBTAINING RESPONSE "BEFORE WEEKEND," WE KNOW FROM EXPERIENCE MUCH SLIPPAGE POSSIBLE IN SUCH PROMISES. WE WILL KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH MEA IN ENDEAVOR SECURE FORMAL REPLY SOONEST.

6. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS DEPT MAY HAVE FOR PASSAGE TO OLISEMEKA IN RESPONSE HIS QUERY ON BILATERIAL ISSUES FOR POSSIBLE DISCUSSION BETWEEN GOWON AND PRESIDENT (PARA 4 ABOVE).
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